



THE 46TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION OF BURKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Reflections from our Pastor

This year, in a study out of UVA, participants were asked to stand at the base of a mountain wearing heavy backpacks and estimate the steepness of the mountain. Participants in the study who stood with a friend gave lower estimates of steepness than those who were standing alone. The study also showed that the stronger and deeper the friendship, the lower the estimate of the steepness of that mountain became. The study determined that those things that we know have metaphorical value, like friendships, have physiological value, too. They change the way we perceive the world and how our bodies work.

This year, we as a church, faced a few mountains. How steep would it be to climb out of Covid? How long would it take to regain our footing in ministry areas? How would we face a new mortgage on the renovated part of the building? How would we say farewell to beloved staff members? How would we use our energy to be a joyful church in a weary world?

It turns out that with deep relationships by our side, and a backpack full of faith, the mountain became less steep. Worship services filled in. Every week, someone new arrived either for the first time or after a few years away. Rainbow teams began to flourish. IMPACT choir added to its number. Small groups, Bible studies, fellowship events, and mission efforts began to stretch out. During the “Love One Another” retire-the-debt effort and budget discussions, our leaders pointed to the path we needed to climb. Courageously and honestly, our congregation moved forward in faith together, lowering the impact of the debt on the budget, while keeping our eyes on the prize of vibrant ministry.

This year was my first trip to Kibwezi, Kenya. I was deeply moved by the impact of 40 years of this partnership on their community and ours. The orphan care program truly changes the trajectory of people’s lives. I remember meeting a woman who had lost her husband and then been banished from his family. She lived in a small room with small children, one with special needs, and I could only imagine how steep the mountains she faced must be. Her daughter is thriving in the school that this church helped build and the orphan care program is supporting the family with food and care. After we prayed, the mother said, “You all are standing by my side, and I don’t feel alone. That means so much.”

This faith moves mountains, friends. Jesus told us it would. Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor.



Highlights of 2023 from Church Officers

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Goals for 2023

- Ensure open communication with worship volunteers.
- Discuss ways to pull the old narthex area into worship space.
- Seek new ways to invigorate and enrich worship.
- Add worship resources to the church library.
- Strengthen hymn singing.



JANUARY

Sermon Series – “Now What?”
New Worship Ministry – Worship Arts
Worship Arts dove display

FEBRUARY

Sermon Series – “Architectural Sermons”
Special Service – Ash Wednesday

MARCH

Sermon Series – “Seeking”
New Worship Resource (online) – Sanctified Arts
Lay Leader Coordinator– successful recruiting of more children and youth

APRIL

Sermon Series – “Seeking”
Online Worship – addition of new and improved AV equipment (training)
Special Service - Maundy Thursday at tables with First Baptist of Vienna
Worship Arts centerpieces for Maundy Thursday tables
Special Service – Good Friday Tenebrae
Three Easter morning worship services
Funeral – Lorna Daniels

MAY

Sermon Series – “Church Home”
Worship Arts Pentecost display
Rainbow Choirs lead worship – “The Tale of Three Trees”
Wedding – Kaitlyn Ross



Flower Guild



Baptism



Maundy Thursday

WORSHIP MINISTRY, continued

JUNE

Sermon Series – “Life Worth Living”
Presbyterian Association of Musicians Conference
for Worship and Music
Funeral – John Westfall

JULY

Sermon Series – “Games People Play”
Summer ceiling banners
Wedding – Maggie Ruud

AUGUST

End of Summer Sermon Series – “Receive Love,
Give Love, Repeat”

SEPTEMBER

Sermon Series – “Things Jesus Never Said”
New Worship Ministry - Collaborative Worship
Planning
Usher Coordinator – successful recruit of many
new ushers

OCTOBER

Sermon Series – “The Path of Freedom “
World Communion
Funeral – Bruce Ross

NOVEMBER

Sermon Series – “Raise Your Voice”
Worship Festival – Chancel Choir, IMPACT,
Rainbow Choirs, Handbell Choir
40th Annual Thanksgiving Interfaith Service at
Burke United Methodist Church
Communion Table – refurbished and returned
after a long absence

DECEMBER

Sermon Series – “Those Who Dream”
Chancel Choir Christmas Cantata – Rutter’s
“Gloria”
Advent/Christmas Wreath Lighting (10 families)
Special Service - Longest Night (for those
experiencing loss)
Worship Arts wreath and communion table display
(Longest Night)
Special Service – Christmas Eve, Children’s
Pageant, and Rainbow Choirs
Special Service – Christmas Eve, IMPACT Youth
Choir
Special Service – Christmas Eve, Chancel Choir and
communion

Throughout 2023, the number of in-person attendees continued to increase. Christmas Eve services saw the return of members and guests we hadn’t seen since the Covid pandemic. More handheld candles, please!

At last count, the Worship Ministry involved the active participation of 12 coordinators and staff members who recruited 275-300 volunteers during the year to see to the many details of Sunday morning worship, Special Services, weddings, and funerals. This is happy evidence of the thriving and growing BPC community.

-Submitted by Sherrie Brady, Elder



Easter Cross



Chancel Choir

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH

We're celebrating a year of community and relationships within BPC's Children's Ministry! We kicked off 2023 with a movie night and a bowling night for our upper elementary students — activities that we hoped would help these kids find connections and form friendships as they head into the middle school transition years. In April, our Rainbow choirs presented moving performances of *The Three Trees*, our first children's musical at BPC since the pandemic. And in July, Vacation Bible School returned! We welcomed 45 children for three afternoons of fun and worship around the theme, "Love One Another." Our kids joined everyone in the church for several special multi-generational events over the course of the year, including first Sunday breakfasts, packing snacks for students at Glasgow Middle School, and our annual Little Shoppe Christmas celebration.



Rainbow dinner



Food Packing

Rainbow, our mid-week retreat for elementary school students, has continued to grow and evolve. We welcomed many new families this fall, and we've been delighted by the enthusiasm of our children — and of their parents, who have readily volunteered to prepare delicious meals and help care for the kids! We continue to gather a wide range of ages in our Godly Play circles during both Sunday services, and our Stepping Stones and nursery staff are increasingly busy looking after the smallest among us. Sunday School has

continued in a mixed-age format for 1st-5th grades, and we also introduced a middle school class this fall for 6th-8th graders.



BPC Preschool Staff

The BPC Preschool has flourished as a joyful, welcoming space for students and their families. Director Anndra Rowland has identified and responded to our community's need for extended preschool hours, and BPCP now offers full-day preschool options, which have been invaluable for our families with working parents. BPCP hosted a Trunk-or-Treat in October for both our preschool and church families, and Dr. Rowland has been a wonderful partner as we find new ways to weave together the church and preschool in ministry and mission.

- Submitted by Beth Ann Clare, Elder



Rainbow crafts



The Three Trees



Godly Play

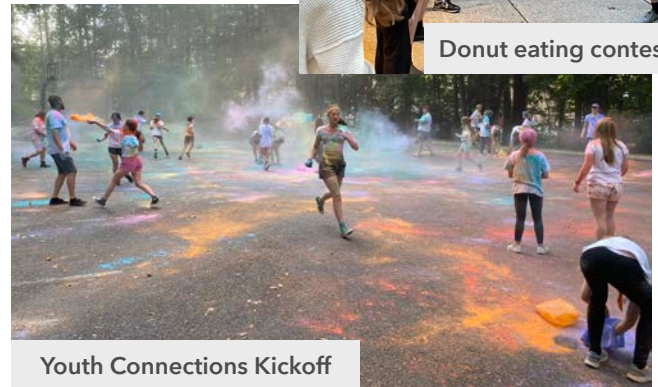
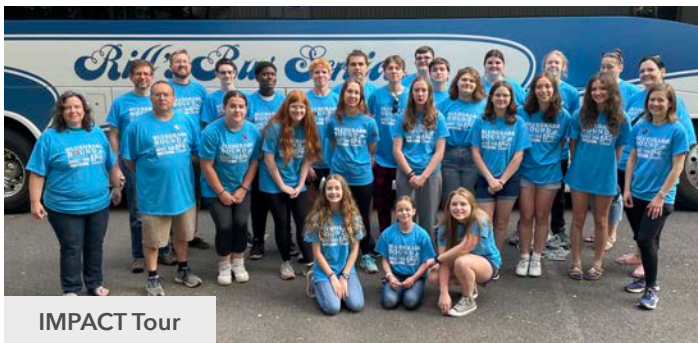


VBS

YOUTH SPIRITUAL GROWTH

2023 was a year of both beginnings and endings. In March of 2023 the first ever “March Mission Madness” was conducted. A congregational day of service, BPC sent over 50 congregants to a dozen different places of service. At Martha’s Table our congregants helped prepare and serve food. At Homeward Trails they helped keep an animal shelter safe and functional. At Fountainhead Regional Park, they fixed benches in preparation for the spring season. The event was so successful it was followed up with a fall edition called the September Circus of Service.

Alas, the year also saw the completion of Pastor Adam Ogg’s service with BPC. In October of 2023 Reverend Ogg answered a call to serve at Congregational Presbyterian Church in Lewiston, Idaho. Adam was given a grand farewell at the end of October. The announcement of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is slated for the January church annual meeting to find his replacement.



Spring Highlights:

- March Mission Madness
- Confirmation Retreat
- Confirmation of 13 youth!
 - Ben Bailey, Lauren Doll, Elise Erbrecht, Cadence Gass, Kaelyn Hrabak, Grayson Macaspac, Kate Marin, Elle Murray, Jason Ngongbo, Olivia Osterhout, Ben Reece, Lukas Steinhelper, Evelyn Turner
- IMPACT spring party - welcomed rising 7th graders

Summer Highlights:

- Interview panel with graduating seniors on Youth Sunday
- Middle School Spiritual Retreat at Massanetta Springs
- Youth conference “On the Road Again” in Montreat, NC
- IMPACT Tour to Kentucky
- IMPACT sponsored rummage sale

Fall Highlights:

- Kickoff event with color dust competition
- Lock-in at BPC
- September Circus of Service
- Intergenerational Thanksgiving Meal
- IMPACT sponsored a bus fundraiser

Winter Highlights:

- Coat drive and distribution in partnership with Cornerstones
- Barbie movie night and discussion
- Montreat college conference
- Snow Tubing at Bryce Resort

- Submitted by Geoff Marin, Elder

ADULT SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Adult Spiritual Growth activities focus on providing space for developing spiritually, while at the same time connecting deeply as community. To reach these goals, a variety of opportunities were offered for Adult Spiritual Growth this year.

We started in January by inviting the community to partake of “An Infusion of Hope” with guest speaker MaryAnn McKibben Dana where she shared how to live into hope, something we all have searched for coming out of the years of pandemic life and general uncertainties in the world around us in everything from politics and climate change, to the economy.

BPC and the Dismantling Racism Team of the National Capital Presbytery hosted a screening of “At The River” at Southminster Presbyterian Church. The documentary chronicles the lives and decisions of a few young Presbyterian ministers in the deep South during the civil rights era of the 1950s and 1960s.

Several Sunday School classes were held, with inspiration coming from all around us - including “Seeking Jesus at the Table” and “The Gospel and Ted Lasso.” Classes learned via video in “From Jesus to Christ” and by reading in the book studies, “Hope: A Users Manual,” “Life Worth Living,” and “Good Inside.” Those who joined our “Seeking the Word” series learned through creativity - using scripture with poetry and creative writing. “Sunday Morning Scriptures” continued to enrich those who attended the Zoom calls as the group contemplated the Bible verses being discussed in the service. This has been such a rewarding class for those who have been able to join that it is now also offered in-person during the Sunday School hour, in addition to the group that continues to meet earlier on Sundays online.

We continued to seek out opportunities to offer multi-generational sessions on first Sundays, including breakfasts with board games, the Glasgow Middle School food-packing project, and in the fall, first-Sunday multi-generational Godly Play. During Lent, a special series exploring the Sacraments was offered as a joint parent/child class. We continue to see these as opportunities to be more inclusive and community-building, welcoming everyone to grow together.

As we closed out the year again offering a series of multi-generational opportunities during Sunday School, we are continuing to think about what inclusion means. We want to ensure we provide opportunities for everyone to grow here at BPC, and to feel comfortable and welcome in our community. If you have thoughts on what this means to you or how we can help you to find space to grow spiritually here, please let us know!

We look forward to finding ways to connect and grow with you in 2024!

- Submitted by Andrea Ham, Elder



Guest Speaker - MaryAnn McKibben Dana



Sunday School

FACILITIES

As the new Elder for Facilities, I am immensely grateful for the staff, Fix-It Team, Woodchucks, Polar Bears, and all other helpers in keeping our Facility working for us and serving our needs and those of our community. I have learned a lot about our space, how it's used, and what to expect to keep it going.

Here are some of the things we accomplished for the building and grounds in 2023:

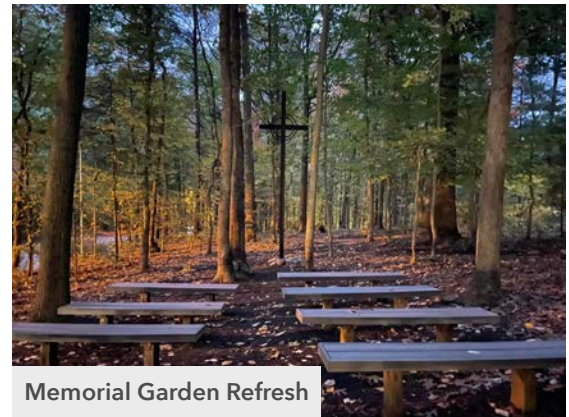
- We had the exterior of the main building and cottage power washed and repainted in areas to remain weather and pest proof and looking bright and clean.
- Thanks to a memorial gift, the steps to the Memorial Chapel were replaced, a railing was added, the benches were re-finished, and the chapel area was re-mulched for safer access to that beautiful and meditative space.
- The Rooftop HVAC Unit that serves Classrooms E4 & E5 gave out on us (well past its expected lifespan) so it required a replacement but is humming along nicely and will serve the space for the next 20 (or so) years.
- The communion table got a much needed refinish to keep it looking great for many more years.
- We extended the hardwood flooring from the hallway by the office to the library and in the Conversation Corner.
- We have ordered and are awaiting the delivery of new doors to replace those on classrooms E4 & E5.
- A Security Team was chartered to evaluate ways to keep our facility and operations as safe as possible.
- As always, we kept up with the work to trim trees, move leaves, plant and care for greenery, patch the roof, fix the chairs, hang decorations, repair, paint, and generally keep up our Facility – whew!

And we have a lot to look forward to in 2024!

- We have engaged a new HVAC company to keep us in order and to help replace more of our aged Fan Coil Units throughout the building.
- We intend to use Major Maintenance Funding to get some work done on our aging roofs. While Ron Marlow is a wizard at finding leaking spots and patching them, it's past time for a full review of how our flat roofs are holding up and to make some larger repairs.
- We are excited to work with the Preschool to choose and install some new playground equipment.
- Continuing to expand the flooring project, we hope to re-floor the Music Room, repairing some damage that has been caused by the aging Fan Coil Units (which will also be replaced).

We're also looking for ways that we can extend the use of our beautiful facility to the community. If you know of a group looking for a meeting space – on a regular basis, for a special event, or for other creative uses – please reach out to Holly and Jocelyn.

Finally, if you have any interest in helping with our Grounds or Facilities, please reach out! There are always things to be done and more hands make lighter work.



Memorial Garden Refresh



Crane replacing HVAC unit



Spring Refresh



Fix-It Team reinstalling communion table

- Submitted by Jocelyn Callister, Elder

COMMUNITY LIFE

- Coffee is regularly served each Sunday morning. Thanks to Sheila Steel we have a coffee schedule with helpers for both services.
- The Fun Team continues to meet monthly and plan events focused on fellowship and delight. Thank you to Lucinda Sexton, Andrea Ham, Jenny Childress, Landy Tate and our newest members, Fabiola Green and Carolyn Raithel.



Church Picnic



- We worked with Mission and continued to serve warm, nutritious meals on the second Tuesday of each month for community and church members through Community Table. We met in December and decided to pause Community Table. During that meeting we listened to many ideas around what we liked and want to keep and what we would change in the future.



- Under the fearless and adventurous leadership of Andrea Ham, a group of about 10 of us hiked to see the bluebells growing and then visited over lunch at Paradise Springs in April.

- To celebrate Fathers Day, we had Donuts for Dads before the 10am service and enjoyed donuts with our usual coffee. There was also a craft for children to make something for the important father figures in their life.

- In August, we hosted a Perfect Popsicle Party (thanks for the name, London Tate!) after church to celebrate the end of summer. Alongside popsicles, people gathered around outdoor games, too.

- We took the All-Church Picnic to Burke Lake Park in September. The congregation gathered for a potluck and some yummy grilled items. We also partnered with Small Group Ministries to introduce the name tags "My name is....Ask me about..."

- Snacks were provided for the Congregational Meeting in October to allow the meeting to run smoothly and quickly.

- We helped celebrate Adam Ogg's leaving with a reception following his last service. The theme was Mr. Rogers.

- With the help of Lynn Miller, we now have a Kitchen Directory. The cabinets and pantry shelves are labeled and numbered and the directory lists specifics of what is in each cabinet and on each pantry shelf. We are hoping this will help as so many groups start to use our kitchen.

Ideas we want to try in 2024

- With the information from our listening meeting around Community Table in December of 2023, we want to try new out-reach based on interests that were shared.
- We will continue to partner across ministries to provide fun and fellowship.
- There will be another church picnic in the fall; this time at BPC.
- Chili Cook-off
- Coffee! Coffee! Coffee!

- Submitted by Amanda Deaton, Elder



Kitchen Team

DEACONS



The Board of Deacons kept rocking and rolling with another busy year in 2023 as we continued to grow our outreach. We made nearly 850 outreach efforts through phone calls, flower deliveries, cards, rides to appointments, etc. These contacts included more than one hundred in-person visits to members in hospitals, recovery centers and residences. Along with our ongoing outreach to individuals, the deacons lead multiple initiatives, including:

- Partnering with staff to support families by helping coordinate and provide receptions following Celebration of Life services
- Managing the Meal Train, which continues to support families dealing with illnesses, surgeries, grief and recent births
- Organizing our senior-to-senior letter writing program, which provides opportunities for those blessed with the gift of age to pass wisdom to recent BPC high school and college graduates in the late spring
- Hosting a very merry senior holiday party in December



Deacons also provided support to other ministries last year. Our hospitality team worked with the Evangelism Elder to provide refreshments to New Members classes and with Community Life to support the annual picnic. Through the volunteering of Jean Buffardi, we were also able to provide a deacon representative to the BPC Preschool Board.

It is our hope to help those in our community to feel seen and heard; to provide a meal, a ride or a helping hand; and to offer a calming presence. The BPC community does a wonderful job keeping us in the loop as we can only reach out to those we know about, so we ask whenever appropriate that you continue to let us know of your own needs and those of others.

We have been very fortunate to have many deacons who have chosen to continue their roles in 2024 and are always looking for anyone who would like to join. It is with much gratitude for the support of BPC and the deacon group that we look to support our community in 2024.

-Submitted by Amy Biehl, Moderator

EVANGELISM

The people of BPC continue to demonstrate their commitment to our God, our church and our community through the ever increasing activities of service. Our focus for Evangelism through 2023 was to continue to build on our culture of hospitality and improve our presence on the internet.

Early in the year, our Website Team (Gene Summerlin, Anita Pesses, Elizabeth Reece and Dan Peterson) launched the new BPC website and presented it to our congregation. It was received very well and we believe it more accurately reflects the character of BPC.

Our BPC website is our primary “marketing tool” and was developed with the objective of attracting new members to our church. When searching for a new church, the first place people will go for information is the website. The website retains important features for our members such as calendars and links for Giving. The Website Team continues to meet quarterly to maintain and update the website content and functions as needed.

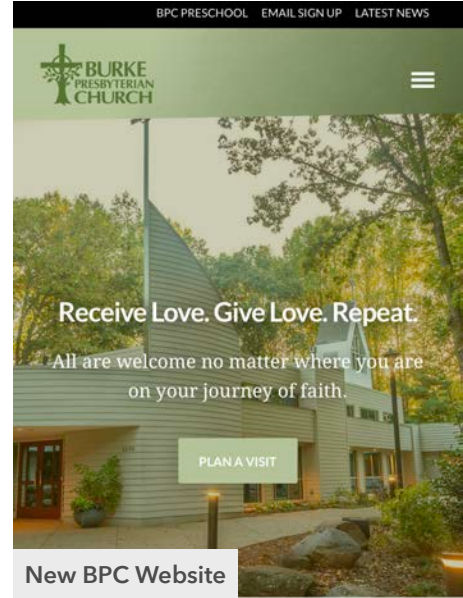
EVANGELISM, continued

In September, the Elder for Evangelism led a discussion on the topic of Inclusion for the Session. It is important for all churches to have a common understanding of Inclusion and determine how the church can address this important issue. This presentation was subsequently shared with the Adult Spiritual Growth committee for discussion.

Our Director of Communications, Elizabeth Reece, announced that she would be stepping down from her position at the end of 2023. She will remain a part of our Website Team and her Communications duties will be transferred to our new Office Manager and Communications Director Nicole Sheely. We are very grateful for Elizabeth’s tremendous contributions and look forward to working with Nicole.

For 2024, I ask all of you to share our excitement for new opportunities and invite your friends to come join us. We are looking forward to a wonderful year.

- Submitted by Gene Summerlin, Elder



New BPC Website

OFFICE OPERATIONS

The Office Operations ministry provides support for the church computers, TVs, phones, printers, postage, and works hand-in-hand with the Facilities ministry to provide internet, A/V functions and Wi-Fi throughout the church. We also oversee the IT support contract for managed services for pastors, staff, Session, Deacons, Preschool and various committees.

As mentioned in last year’s report, both the National Capital Presbytery and BPC each contributed \$11,500 toward the upgrade of the basic Zoom/YouTube 1-camera video system that was set up during the pandemic. Equipment was purchased by the end of last year, and then this year was spent installing, testing, tweaking, and training on that equipment, which finally answered the question - “What’s that desk under the black cover at the back of the Meeting House for?”



AV Team

The switchover to this new system occurred in October and includes two additional cameras - a second one on the back wall, and the third on the side beam that used to support the air wall between the Meeting House and the old Narthex. The three cameras are fed through an actual TV “switcher”, which allows the operator to “direct” by being able to preset each camera’s shot before it is taken “on air”. This provides a clean look, in contrast to the previous “security camera” vibe with the constant zooming on the single camera. The side camera has given us new views of the choir, piano, guest musicians, Bridges to Worship for Children, baptisms, etc., and, most importantly, has revealed that our congregation actually has faces! We are now able to see the entire Meeting House, which our viewers have reported makes it more inclusive for them watching from afar. In addition to sending this switched

production to Zoom and YouTube, it also is available in almost every room in the church with a TV, including the Gathering Space. Of course, this equipment can also be used for any other event in the Meeting House that requires streaming. By the way, it seems that many of our new members became familiar with BPC through our Zoom and/or YouTube.

- Submitted by Jim Schoonmaker, Elder

SMALL GROUPS

Have you found your “home” within BPC.... a small group that allows you to listen, share, grow and love... a place to thrive? Being a member of a small group allows us to move from being “guests” to being involved members of Burke Presbyterian Church. The small groups come in a wide variety of shapes and sizes and in fall into many different mission areas....

Is your “home” in a choir; working in mission on the Crop Walk, Hypothermia, Christ House, or Kibwezi; being a part of a meal team for youth or Rainbow; serving as a tutor in snacks and backpacks; caring for our facilities as a Woodchuck, Polar Bears or member of the “Fix-it team”; or as a member of a Bible Study? All our small groups are open to new members at any time. In addition to the groups listed above we also have:

- Bible and Bagels
- Monday Night Women’s Bible Study
- Nightingales Bible Study
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study
- Men of Burke
- Leaves of Grace Book Club
- A hiking group

We are looking forward to some additional small group gatherings during Lent this year. Anita Pesses, Elder for Vocations, and I work together closely to help people find their “home” within BPC. If you are looking for a small group that will help turn BPC into your home or have an idea for a small group, please reach out to me (MegSmocks@gmail.com) and I will help you get settled or a new group started.

- Submitted by Meg Ross, Elder



VOCATIONS

In 2023, the Vocations ministry continued close coordination with the Evangelism ministry to identify church visitors and gather contact information for follow up. A database was used to share up-to-date visitor information among pastors, staff, and Vocations and Evangelism elders. We worked together to connect with these new people and help them develop closer ties with BPC.



New Member Recognition, February 26, 2023

In addition, the Vocations elder joined a small team to reimagine, rewrite, redesign, and relaunch the church website. The site is now focused outward, toward inviting people to learn about BPC, come visit, and consider joining the church while also maintaining information and event calendars for current members. Focus group research and anecdotes indicate that the BPC website is key to bringing us new members, and most visit our website before they attend church in person for the first time.



New Member Recognition, October 15, 2023

The Vocations ministry held in-person spring and fall Exploring Membership classes to welcome new friends and families. With a 4-week curriculum and the use of a “BPC 101” booklet, participants were led by Pastor Becca to explore Presbyterian theology and governance as well as the story of BPC and ways to make this place your home. As a result, 13 wonderful adults and their families chose to join BPC by proclamation of faith, baptism, or transfer in 2023 and we look forward to keeping them engaged and connected. We will offer more classes in 2024, with the first beginning in February.

The Vocations ministry’s web-based Let’s Get Connected form gathers information from members and friends who wish to share ways they would like to be involved with BPC in everything from ushering to teaching to Bible study to liturgy to tech support to music to gardening. Information shared has led to service opportunities, leadership nominations, idea sharing, and small group memberships. It has also helped our pastors, staff, and church leadership better know a church family of uniquely gifted individuals.

Information from the Let’s Get Connected database feeds directly into church volunteer opportunities. The Vocations elder serves as BPC’s volunteer coordinator, sharing information about members’ interests, abilities, and passions with the appropriate elders who then incorporate these volunteers into their ministries.

In 2024, the Vocations Ministry anticipates welcoming more new friends, and connecting all of us with opportunities to serve, learn, gather, and grow.

- Submitted by Anita Pesses, Elder

MISSION

Our Mission Ministry team meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7 P.M. via Zoom. At our meetings, we discuss the financial and/or material goods, needs, and impact of local and international human service organizations and Presbyterian mission organizations BPC supports. Our financial support comes primarily from the percentage of the overall BPC budget dedicated to Mission each year. These organizations depend on the faithful annual pledges by BPC to help meet their budgets. To address additional needs that our partner organizations have that are not otherwise covered in the Mission budget, we conduct special offerings; food, clothing, and toy collections; the Kibwezi Auction; and Alternative Gifts. Over the years, we have developed strong relationships with the organizations we support. These organizations provide food, affordable housing, education, health care, and other critical needs to our sisters and brothers in need, locally and globally, as well as social witness advocacy in a manner consistent with our Christian faith.

In 2023, International Mission Ministry highlights include the generous congregational support of the Cyclone Freddy disaster relief special offering for Malawi and the special offering to allow BPC to purchase ultrasound equipment for Ukraine for medical services needed due to the war.

Rev. Cheryl Barnes visited during Youth March Mission Madness week. Cheryl, the Presbyterian Mission Co-Worker we supported through our pledge to Presbyterian global missions, presented her early education work in Malawi to Youth Connections, Snacks and Backpacks, Rainbow, and Adult groups. Eva Thorp and James Munthali coordinated the visit, the Munthali's hosted a welcome dinner, the Marlows provided lodging and meals in their home, and the Flemings hosted her for a dinner and provided lodging the last night of her visit.

In September 2023, Rev. Becca, Karyn Niles, Lucinda Sexton, Jan Smith, James Munthali, and Clifton Presbyterian member Sharon Cornish visited Kibwezi for the first time. The trip was led by David Smith as a way to educate new volunteers on our longstanding partnerships in preparation for a summer 2024 work trip.

A major highlight for local Missions was Session's approval for BPC to once again offer to host Hypothermia in 2024 and the county's approval of our site. This was made possible by our building renovations, especially the construction of the commercial kitchen and the addition of the Gathering Space. Alternative Gifts purchased for Hypothermia in 2023 are making it possible to prepare for our guests as hosting costs have not been a part of our budget.

The Burke CROP Walk was particularly exciting this year under the passionate and skillful co-leadership of Amy Stidham of BPC and Cathy Liverman of St. Stephen's UMC. A particular highlight was the work of Amanda Stidham who did an exemplary job updating the Burke CROP Walk website.



CROP Walk



Community Table



Christ House Meal Prep

continued

MISSION, continued

A very significant highlight of our social witness work under Nancy Morrison's leadership was the work Rev. Becca and BPC members did in support of V.O.I.C.E.'s advocacy to secure huge commitments in state funding toward improving behavioral health services locally and across the Commonwealth.

Special joys came from Mission partnerships with Youth Ministry and youth serving a meal at Christ House during March Mission Madness, with Children's Ministry in the intergenerational service projects to provide snacks for students at Glasgow MS, and with Community Life that resulted in dramatic increases in intergenerational service at Community Table. Your Mission Ministry team looks forward to continuing such partnership building and growing opportunities for more local hands on intergenerational mission service opportunities. If you would like to get more involved, please reach out to me and plan to meet with the Mission Ministry team the first Tuesday of a coming month.



Cheryl Barnes speaks to Snacks & Backpacks students

- Submitted by Susan Lydick, Elder



Kibwezi, Kenya trip



March Mission Madness



Ukraine Special Offering



CROP Walk



Cheryl Barnes visit



V.O.I.C.E. Assembly



Coat Drive

PERSONNEL

BPC is lucky to have amazing staff who make our church a truly special place that strives to honor and serve God in our lives, in our community, and in the world. Our staff includes the following people:

- Becca Messman, Senior Pastor
- Julianne Erbrecht, Music Ministries
- Arlene Decina, Spiritual Growth
- Holly Walsh, Business Administrator
- Nicole Sheely, Office & Communications Manager
- Anndra Rowland, Preschool Director
- Wei-Han Wu, Pianist
- Catherine Taylor, Parish Associate

These special individuals work tirelessly and joyfully to make our church run. I am so thankful for them.

We experienced some staff changes this year. We are thrilled that Nicole Sheely joined the staff in early 2023 as Office Manager. At the end of 2023, Elizabeth Reece stepped down from her position as Director of Communications. Nicole is taking over many of the duties associated with that role in an expansion of her previous position. Adam Ogg left his role as Associate Pastor and Director of Youth Ministries to accept a pastor position in the Pacific Northwest. We were able to honor these individuals for the tremendous gifts they shared with BPC for numerous years. We also honored Julianne, who had her 20-year anniversary at BPC.

We are currently engaged in a search for an interim Director of Youth Ministries, and the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee is being formed to search for an Associate Pastor / Director of Youth Ministries. We are also currently searching for a Director of the Handbell Choir.

As Elder for Personnel, I work closely with the Personnel Committee to stay in touch with staff and complete all things personnel. The following individuals comprise the Personnel Committee:

- Seth Parsons
- Becca Messman
- Dan Herrema
- Chuck Miller
- Lois Page
- Anne Tidaback
- Nancy Wulf

I am very appreciative for all the support and guidance these folks provide.

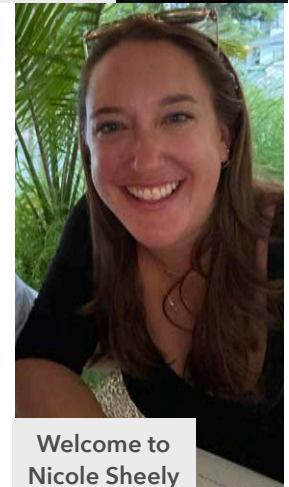
-Submitted by
Seth Parsons, Elder



Julianne Erbrecht celebrated 20 years at BPC



Thank you to Elizabeth Reece!



Welcome to Nicole Sheely



Thank you to Pastor Adam!

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE

The Stewardship and Finance team is tasked with monitoring the budget process throughout the course of the year, creating the stewardship campaign in the fall, leading the budget creation process for the coming year, and monitoring the overall health of BPC's financial situation. In 2023, we focused on increased transparency and streamlining the budget process. The budget and finance committee meets monthly to review where we are compared to the budget, and the elder met with session members to discuss their needs for 2024. In addition, the session held a day-long meeting in the fall to discuss our budget in more detail. Here are some highlights:

Overall Spending

In 2023 we received more in pledge income than we anticipated, which is wonderful news. Our staff and elders spent less than they anticipated, which contributed to a surplus in the 2023 budget. This surplus is being used to fund our 2024 budget. This is the second year that a surplus has funded the next year's budget. We have revised down the 2024 spending numbers to closer reflect the actual spending in 2023, and do not anticipate having such a large surplus heading into 2025. We held an in-depth budget discussion with the congregation in December and received helpful feedback from you all regarding the budget process. Thank you for your participation and feedback – the church budget is the product of many hands, and we are grateful to have such an engaged congregation.

Mortgage Update

In 2023 we wrapped up our campaign to retire the debt. Congregants pledged \$852,000 in funds over the course of three years, and we have been using those funds to pay down the principal on the church's mortgage. A ten percent tithe on funds we have received has been paid to the three identified beneficiaries: 18% to Preschool Scholarships, 32% to Community Table, 50% to the Affordable Housing Initiative. We went through a discernment process to identify any additional funds the church could use to pay down the principal of our loan and used \$144,435 of church funds to augment the generous pledges from our congregation. In 2023 the church paid down \$422,617 in principal on the mortgage and paid \$43,587 in interest.

Stewardship Campaign

In October we began our annual stewardship campaign with the theme "Path of Freedom". We heard from four different church members about their experiences at BPC and how the church makes a difference in their lives. Please check out the videos, a letter from our pastor, and 2024 budget highlights here: burkepreschurch.org/giving/the-path-of-freedom. We are blessed to be part of such a generous community; we saw an increase in pledges of over 8% in the stewardship campaign this year. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to BPC – we rely on donations from our congregation to support the ministries of the church. Your commitments fuel the BPC ministries to continue their important work in the world. Thank you!

-Submitted by Jessie Doll, Elder





Glasgow Food Packing



Rainbow Choir



Youth Game Night



Tale of Three Trees



Christ House Meal Prep



Christ House Meal Prep



Rainbow



Circus of Service

2024 Program Budget

Income		\$1,280,000.00
Pledges		\$1,100,000.00
Loose Offerings		\$20,000.00
Building Use		\$5,000.00
Interest/Dividends		\$8,000.00
Per Capita		\$6,000.00
Online Processing Fees		\$4,000.00
2023 Surplus		\$137,000.00
Expenditures		\$1,280,596.04
Personnel Ministry	Personnel	\$503,047.47
	Benefits/Admin	\$151,897.53
Worship Ministry		\$16,075.00
Children's Ministry	Children's Education	\$5,000.00
	General Administration	\$3,908.00
Spiritual Growth Ministry	Adult Education	\$3,201.00
	Library	\$26.00
	Youth Education	\$27,032.00
Congregational Care Ministry	Community Life	\$2,676.00
	Small Groups	\$350.00
Vocations Ministry		\$48.00
Outreach Ministry (Mission)		\$107,594.60
Communications Ministry		\$1,839.00
Facilities Ministry	Utilities	\$48,800.00
	Maintenance	\$130,600.00
	Office	\$73,693.00
	Transfer to Major Maintenance	\$75,000.00
Stewardship	Presbytery Per Capita	\$29,087.44
	Insurance	\$29,459.00
	Stewardship	\$13,545.00
	Mortgage Payments	\$57,054.00
Session		\$451.00
Board of Deacons		\$212.00
Difference		(\$596.04)

Elders, Deacons, and Staff

Elders

Sherrie Brady	Elder for Worship
Jocelyn Callister	Elder for Facilities
Beth Ann Clare	Elder for Children's Spiritual Growth
Amanda Deaton	Elder for Community Life
Jessie Doll	Elder for Stewardship & Finance
Andrea Ham	Elder for Adult Spiritual Growth
Michael Hrabak	Elder for Nominations
Susan Lydick	Elder for Missions
Geoff Marin	Elder for Youth Spiritual Growth
Seth Parsons	Elder for Personnel
Anita Pesses	Elder for Vocations
Gene Peters	Clerk of Session
Meg Ross	Elder for Small Groups
Jim Schoonmaker	Elder for Office Operations
Gene Summerlin	Elder for Evangelism

Deacons

Amy Biehl, moderator
Jean Buffardi
Jenny Childress
Nancy Cox
Christina Eppink
Kathy Fleming
Catherine Gillespie
Linda Greenlees
Randy Lee
Sarah Ngongbo
Karyn Niles
David Roberts
Laurie Roberts
Brian Sugden
Heather Wickham

Staff

Senior Pastor and Head of Staff

Rev. Becca Messman

Parish Associate

Rev. Catherine Taylor

Director of Spiritual Growth

Arlene Decina

Director of Music Ministries

Julianne Erbrecht

Business Administrator

Holly Walsh

Office and Communications Manager

Nicole Sheely

Preschool Director

Anndra Rowland

Pianist

Wei-Han Wu



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